Book Review

"Moment of Truth in Iraq"
by Michael Yon
Publisher - Richard Vigilante Books

Review by Greg Gibbons
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Mathew Brady. Ernie Pyle. Don Whitehead. Joe Galloway. Add one more name to the ranks of stellar American combat journalists: Michael Yon. A former US Army Special Forces Soldier, Yon began general freelance writing in the mid-1990s despite having no background in the field. According to the New York Times, no other reporter has spent as much time with combat troops in both Iraq and Afghanistan, which Yon has been doing constantly since 2004.

Yon began writing about the occupation of Iraq after the death of two of his Army friends, one of which he had known since High School. Following accounts of the Operation IRAQI FREEDOM in the American press, he became concerned that the coalition was losing the war. When asked about this, his friends in the military said that the media was not telling the whole story. He decided to go to Iraq to find out for himself, financing his trip from his own pocket for more than half a year, eventually receiving generous contributions from readers of his online magazine.

Moment of Truth in Iraq is a compilation of his dispatches written while embedded with Coalition Forces. His writings are riveting, and the more prolific are accompanied by photographs as well. Such as his account of 1-24 Infantry's deployment to Mosul in 2005 entitled "Gates of Fire," where Yon, the battalion commander and the command sergeant major find themselves in an urban firefight with insurgents. The photos don't lie – the battalion commander is wounded, his command sergeant major fights hand-to-hand and Yon himself is pressed into service.